Congressman Gene Green Statement for the Record Energy and Commerce Committee Markup June 10, 2014

Thank you and I appreciate the Committee leadership for having this markup today.

H.R. 4795, the Promoting New Manufacturing Act, is a response to a long-standing problem.

The problem relates to federal permitting, in this case New Source Review permits.

While the majority of permitting takes place at the state level, the EPA plays a critical role in the permitting process.

When EPA promulgates a final National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), states and industry must respond through implementation and application, respectively.

EPA should work as quickly as possible to offer states guidance on how to implement these new standards.

Lack of guidance can lead to significant permitting delays as industry is forced to submit incomplete NSR applications.

While I support the intent of the bill, I cannot support a lengthy delay in NAAQS implementation.

NSR permitting and the construction of new facilities are important to the economy but we must also balance economic growth with protection of public health.

The bill unfortunately does not strike this balance effectively and for that reason I am unable to vote in favor of it.

We are also considering important health bills today.

All three health care bills address serious public health needs and remind us of what we can accomplish when we work together to improve the health and safety of the American people.

I look forward to seeing these important pieces of legislation move forward and hope we can continue to work in a bipartisan manner.

The Improving Regulatory Transparency for New Medical Therapies Act, the Ensuring Patient Access and Effective Drug Enforcement Act, and the Autism CARES Act all make improvements to the health care system and ensure patients have access to the care they need.

The bills before us today represent an opportunity to demonstrate our commitment to continuing to find solutions on behalf of the American people.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.